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FOR FIFTEEN YEARS, THE LESBIAN AND GAY WEEKLY

Illinois AIDS bills: the good, the bad and the ugly

In a flurry of legislation, the Midwestern state is poised to set bizarre and draconian national precedents at the stroke of the governor's pen

By Michael C. Botkin

SPRINGFIELD, IL — AIDS has hit the heartland full force this year. In Chicago nearly 300 people have been diagnosed with AIDS since the beginning of 1987, almost equaling the total for the entire state in all of 1986. In response, no less than eighteen bills were passed by the state legislature during its last session and currently await Gov. James "Big Jim" Thompson's signature to become law. Among these bills are some of the harshest AIDS laws yet proposed in the United States, including those requiring mandatory testing and contact tracing. Chicago's gay and lesbian community has responded with lobbying, petitions and pickets, but it may not succeed in preventing all of the bills from becoming law.

It is a curious sign of the times that all the bills proposed, including both fairly progressive and breathtakingly reactionary measures, were passed with little opposition. This pattern reveals the legislators' fear of the political repercussions of their actions on AIDS issues. While they recognize the need to take some reasonable steps such as education, they dread taking any stand that could be construed as being "soft" on AIDS. Thus they passed every bill that hit the floor, despite the protests of both gay activists and medical authorities, leaving it to the Governor to veto the truly outrageous ones. Thompson is likely to veto the worst, although he will certainly rationalize his actions on the grounds that these bills would cost too much to implement. Phyllis Schlafly, whose Peoria-based Eagle Forum promoted the worst of the bills, has declared that their passage in itself is a major victory for the right wing, even if they end up vetoed. As she said in the July issue of the Eagle Forum's newsletter, "If we can do it here in Illinois, we can do it anywhere."

Some good bills

Three of the bills passed are reasonable,

well-planned measures against AIDS. Senate Bill 550, sponsored by Sen. William Marovitz, mandates education about AIDS and safe sex in the schools, starting with the sixth grade. This bill, which was nearly defeated by Republicans in the House but which Gov. Thompson has indicated he will sign, has been branded the "safe sodomy bill" by Phyllis Schlafly. Another decent bill, SB736, sponsored by Rep. Ellis Levin, addressed care for people with AIDS (PWAs) and passed by a comfortable margin.

A third bill, SB100, the "AIDS Confidentiality Act" is the subject of some dispute. Sponsored by Marovitz and drafted by the Illinois AIDS Interdisciplinary Advisory Council (IAIAC), this bill requires written, informed consent from clients before the results of their HIV antibody tests can be released. Shortly before this bill was passed, however, it was amended by one of its co-sponsors, Rep. Jesse White, to exempt HMO's and insurance companies from its provisions, effectively gutting the bill. It was later discovered that White received \$1,000 in campaign contributions from insurance companies four days before proposing his amendments. Kit McPheeter, co-chair of the Illinois Gay & Lesbian Task Force, called the amendment "a mockery" of the Confidentiality Act.

Some bad bills

One bill, HB771, is essentially harmless although it is humiliating and bizarre. The "toe tag act," informally labeled the "necrophiliac protection act," requires that the bodies of deceased PWAs be clearly labeled as such. Most of the other bills deal with routine if negative aspects of AIDS, such as requiring the testing of all donated semen. But two of the bills passed are very threatening. These are HB2682m the contact tracing bill, and HB2044, the mandatory testing bill.

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Legislators fear "the political repercussions of their actions on AIDS issues."

Bork Watch



Lesbian lawyer Katherine Triantafyllou at Boston anti-Bork demo: "Do we want a world where the right to love a person of the same sex is not fundamental, but criminal?"

Justice under fire

The Bork conformation hearings begin amid protests and presidential politicking

By Stephanie Poggi

WASHINGTON, DC — Protesters across the U.S. put Robert H. Bork on trial as senators quizzed the ultra-conservative Supreme Court nominee on his judicial record and political philosophy.

In Boston, New Haven, Washington, D.C. and other cities, gay men and lesbians joined labor activists, people of color and feminists to declare Bork a right-wing opportunist, aggressively opposed to abortion rights, lesbian/gay rights, and civil rights.

Under questioning by the congressional panel cluttered with presidential aspirants, the jurist waffled on some of his most controversial positions. Bork claimed, for example, that he now believes the Constitution bars some forms of sex discrimination.

Though Bork authored the infamous anti-gay *Dronenburg v. Zech* decision

(1984, U.S. Circuit Court) in which he ruled the military has the absolute right to fire homosexuals, lesbian and gay issues have not surfaced thus far in the hearings. However, Urvashi Vaid of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force told *GCN* the task force is seeking to testify. "At this point we don't know whether they'll open up the hearings for testimony," said Vaid. "Even the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights is not sure if they'll be allowed to testify."

The hearings are expected to continue for several weeks. A confirmation decision may not be reached until after the Oct. 11 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights where activists hope to further challenge Bork.

□ filed from Boston

Gay man leads Arizona recall

Political newcomer builds grassroots movement to oust governor

By Chris Bull

PHOENIX, AZ — In this state of political opposites, the home of right-winger Barry Goldwater and environmental advocate Morris Udall, of growing Latino and retirement populations, opposing political forces are at it again. This time the opponents are Governor Evan Mecham, an ultra-conservative Mormon fond of calling Black children "pickaninnies," and openly-gay activist Ed Buck, who is leading a grassroots campaign to recall Mecham.

The governor, who used his first day in office last January to rescind a state holiday in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, now wants to compile a list of "homo-

sexuals" in state government and prosecute them under Arizona's anti-cohabitation law, which forbids unmarried couples from living together. Buck, 33, wants to send Mecham into retirement.

Last winter, after selling his insurance brokerage business, Buck started handing out RECALL EV stickers at the Statehouse in Phoenix. Eight months later, he finds himself leading a successful grass-roots recall campaign. According to the Mecham Recall Committee, which has offices in four cities and seven paid staffers, three-fourths of the 215,000 signatures necessary to force

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Quote of the week

"I'm not a gay basher, but I don't support the license to practice sodomy."

—*Jack Molesworth, a candidate for the Boston city council seat held by openly gay David Scondras. Molesworth, who was quoted in the September 8 issue of The Tab — a Boston weekly newspaper — has attacked Scondras for his support of lesbian and gay issues.*

How to keep the court Bork-free

SAN FRANCISCO — The Feminist Men's Alliance (FMA) has produced a booklet to encourage opposition to the nomination of Robert Bork to the Supreme Court.

The publication addresses three major controversies surrounding Bork's nomina-



REJECT BORK

tion: the method used by Ronald Reagan and Edwin Meese to select Bork, his infamous role in the "Saturday Night Massacre," and his legal and philosophical reasoning. Social policy questions including lesbian and gay rights, abortion, forced sterilization and other civil rights issues are explored in the booklet.

To get a copy of *In Defense of Liberty: A Citizen's Guide to the Bork Supreme Court Nomination*, send \$3 to FMA, 71 Ashton Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94112.

□ Jennie McKnight

A picture is worth . . .

COSTA MESA, CA — A gay man who had his picture taken with his lover at a high school reunion is suing the publisher of the event's "memory book" for his refusal to include the photo of the two men.

David Engel, a 1977 graduate of University High School in Irvine, California, attended the August 15 reunion with his lover, Eric Underwood. When the couple reached the front of the line of graduates and their companions waiting to be photographed, they were told their picture would not be taken.

Although a photo was eventually taken of the men, the photographer insisted the shot would not be published. Engel followed up the incident by calling the owner of the photography company, Don Worthington, who reiterated the photographer's promise that the men would not make it into the book.

Engel's suit seeks to restrain the business, Worthington Reunion Photographers, from publishing the book unless it includes the men's picture, according to *The News of Los Angeles*.

□ Jennie McKnight

ILGA Prisoners Project makes demands

COLOGNE, W. Germany — One of the resolutions passed at the Ninth Annual Conference of the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) demanded the immediate and unconditional release of les-

bians and gay men imprisoned for political or religious beliefs or through the application of anti-gay/lesbian laws.

The resolution, drawn up by the Lesbian and Gay Prisoners Project (LGPP) of the ILGA (formerly called the Homosexual Prisoners Project), also demands the release of lesbians and gay men incarcerated "due to . . . difference[s] in . . . the minimum age of consent concerning homo- and heterosexuality." Those whose sentences are partly the result of the discriminatory application of laws should have their sentences revised, according to the LGPP.

In addition, the resolution pledged to support lesbians and gay men who are tortured in prisons or who have been sentenced to death.

□ Jennie McKnight

AIDS incubation period

LONDON — According to a British study of people who contracted AIDS after receiving blood transfusions, men get sick about 3.2 years earlier than women.

According to the journals *Nature* and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, a total of 297 cases in which the date of infection could be exactly identified were used for the study. For men, the average incubation period was 5.6 years, while that of women was 8.8 years.

The study also revealed that age affects the incubation period, with those under five years of age or over the age of 59 becoming ill with AIDS more quickly than those aged 5-59. The authors of the study note that average incubation periods for other modes of infection may differ, since the amount of HIV the infected person is exposed to may vary.

□ Nancy De Luca

ACLU publishes newest docket

NEW YORK — Over 100 legal cases involving AIDS, sexual orientation or consensual sexual activity have been compiled by the Lesbian and Gay Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

The publication, *The National Docket of AIDS and Sexuality and the Law Cases* includes case summaries describing the issues presented in each case, information on the status of cases, and resource information for each case.

The ACLU has published similar dockets on the issues of reproductive freedom and immigration law.

To get a copy of the docket, send \$12 to the ACLU Literature Department, 132 West 43rd St., New York, NY 10036. Make checks out to the ACLU Foundation.

□ Jennie McKnight

Archives need help

HOLLYWOOD, CA — The International Gay and Lesbian Archives may be forced to move from its home here due to financial problems.

According to Jim Kepner, founder and curator of the archives, the collection may move to the Twin Cities area of Minnesota. "Somehow or another we intend to continue," said Kepner, who added that the collection began in 1943.

Kepner said the archives will continue to keep its post office box in Los Angeles and that donations are welcome. Send contributions to P.O. Box 38100, Los Angeles, CA 90038.

□ Jennie McKnight

Brazilian dykes organize

BRAZIL — Terceira Dimensao Gaucha is a new lesbian feminist group in Brazil. At present its members are deeply involved in the fight for lesbian rights in the interior of the country, an area abandoned by the big cities and by intellectual metropolitan gays. They are distributing information about AIDS prevention to the local newspapers, as well as information on the Latin American Lesbian Conference in Mexico (Oct. 14-16, 1987) and about other Brazilian lesbian and gay groups. They are looking for a "twin"

group to sponsor their membership in the ILGA and want to hear from other groups worldwide. Terceira Dimensao Gaucha can be reached in care of Carla Ruschel, Rua Arminio da Silva 1058, Sarandi-RS 99560, Brazil.

□ John Hubert

Oregon men get life for gay man's death

PORTLAND, OR — Two men were sentenced Aug. 28 to life in prison for the brutal kidnapping and murder of Cecil H. Higgs, Jr., in July 1986.

"This was a case of gay-bashing and of intentional robbery. But that wasn't enough for these defendants," said Multnomah County Circuit Judge Harl Hass, the Associated Press reported. "They had to kidnap him, take him to a remote field, humiliate him by stripping him naked. Then they repeatedly stabbed him." Tyrone L. Washington and DePaul Johnson then put Higgs in the trunk of a car and drove from Portland to Cowlitz County, Washington, where they dumped him over a 50-foot embankment. "As they drove away, they heard him crying for help," the judge said.

Jackson, who pleaded guilty to aggravated murder in a January plea bargain, was sentenced to life in prison with a 30-year minimum term. Washington, convicted by a jury of aggravated murder, robbery, and kidnapping, was sentenced to serve a minimum of 30 years of his life term for murder, with consecutive sentences of 10-20 years for the robbery and kidnapping convictions.

□ Betsy Brown

A million for home care

The federal government has granted over a million dollars to five health agencies in the Boston area to deliver care to up to 8,500 people with AIDS, ARC or other HIV-related needs.

The award, which totals \$1,061,648, will be spent over a three year period to increase low-cost community and home-based services to people affected by HIV. Service providers and others expect the grant project, called the Metropolitan Area HIV Service Program (MAHS) to save \$3 million in



Mass. Lt. Gov. Evelyn Murphy at Sept. 14 announcement of federal grant.

federal and state resources by decreasing expensive hospital costs.

The grant provides money to five agencies which have already been serving the local area's HIV-related health needs: the Fenway Community Health Center, the AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts, the Boston City Hospital, the Boston Visiting Nurse Association and the Dimock Community Health Center.

MAHS officials say the program "poses a solution to the current difficulties of reaching communities of color, IV drug users and the gay community to slow the rate of epidemic spread of AIDS by combining the efforts of indigenous service agencies already reaching their constituents."

□ Jennie McKnight

She's (back) in the Army now

MILWAUKEE, WI — A Federal Court ruling has forced the Army to finally reinstate a lesbian who was discharged in 1976 because of her sexual preference.

Former Drill Sergeant Miriam Ben-Shalom actually won the right to be reinstated in a 1980 federal district court ruling by Judge Terence T. Evans. But the Army at that time refused to either comply with the ruling or appeal it.

Ben-Shalom went back to court in 1983,

suings the Army for contempt. This case was eventually heard by Evans, who again ruled in Ben-Shalom's favor, giving the Army until March 1, 1986 to reinstate her.

The Army then made a series of unsuccessful appeals of the ruling, culminating in an August 18 decision of the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago.

Ben-Shalom was administratively reinstated on September 1, and she actually rejoined her Reserve unit on September 12.

□ Jennie McKnight

BU "welcome" speech slammed

BOSTON — The continuing battle between students and administration at Boston University flared up again last week over an allegedly homophobic "welcoming" speech by acting President Jon Westling to the university's 3,600 freshman.

Westling told the incoming students that drug use, homosexuality and promiscuity are "not simply lifestyle options. They are forms of behavior with serious moral consequences." Westling refused to comment to *GCN* on what those "serious moral consequences" might be.

Jeff Nickel, treasurer of the BU lesbian and Gay Alliance, said he and many students he had talked to here were offended by Westling's remarks. "He [Westling] is implying that homosexuality is a choice." Using the formula that 10 percent of any group will be gay men and lesbians, Nickel claimed at least 360 people, going through a stage in their life when they are questioning their sexual identity, experienced quite a bit of anguish as a result of the speech."

The BU administration, led by conservative President John Silber has been severely criticized for insensitivity toward minority students on campus. Silber, who is currently on leave, has come under fire for attempting to move the annual gay and lesbian film festival from the Nickelodeon movie theater because of its proximity to the campus. He also balked at including an anti-discrimination clause for gay men and lesbians in the school's contract with its employees, despite a Boston human rights ordinance requiring such language. Silber has also indicated several times that anti-gay discrimination is not an issue at BU because he claims there are no gay people there, according to Nickel.

Last year Silber threatened to revoke university funding for any group that provided condoms to students. The BU civil liberties union successfully contested the policy.

Westling's speech, which touted the university's independence and open-minded atmosphere, claimed there is no such thing as safe sex and that offering students condoms encourages them not to abstain from sex.

History professor Howard Zinn said that Silber and Westling have attempted to foster a "repressive, bigoted" atmosphere on campus. "It has been extremely demoralizing for students and faculty because the administration is not just backward-thinking, but powerful too." Zinn added that the administration uses its disciplinary, hiring and firing power to keep the campus in line.

Pete Bernard, president of the student union, said that Westling had refused to meet with students over the matter. He said the administration was "out of touch with students and should stay away from imposing its morality on them."

□ Chris Bull

NEWSNOTES
COMPILED BY
JENNIE McKNIGHT

Gross!

Homophobia reaches new depths in a disgusting Michigan dining incident

By Judson Kempson

ANN ARBOR, MI — Over 100 demonstrators boycotted the PanTree restaurant throughout the day on Saturday, September 10, to protest the harassment of a group of gay and lesbian customers at the restaurant last month.

The incident involved two men who approached a table where the gay men and lesbians were sitting. One of the men vomited while the other spat food at the group. According to witnesses, two managers of the restaurant laughed at the scene and did not intervene because the men were regular customers and too big.

At the protest, members of the Lesbian and Gay Rights On Campus (LaGROC) circulated petitions and a letter demanding that PanTree management make a public apology in both the Ann Arbor News and the Michigan Daily. The group also demanded restaurant officials appear on the Gay and Lesbian Radio Collective program on local radio station WCBN and at an open forum before the Human Rights Commission to document the incident. They said the two managers involved should be dismissed, and that PanTree should make a financial contribution to the gay and lesbian community such as chartering a bus for the Oc-

tober March.

The restaurant management so far prohibited the harassers from entering the restaurant, provided a free meal to the victims, and made an apology during the protest. According to Carol Wayman, a member of LaGROC and organizer of the boycott, the only demand that has been met is an agreement by the restaurant to apologize on *Lambda TV*, a gay cable program. The restaurant reportedly has no intention of dismissing the two managers.

Asked if LaGROC will pursue its demand further, Wayman said the purpose of the protest was "to publicize the event and let people know that this sort of thing happens in Ann Arbor." She also said future plans of the gay and lesbian activist group will focus on university issues and action against a local homophobic bar, Dooley's where the harassers have been employed.

According to the Michigan Daily, a bartender from Dooley's who knew the harassers said in their defense, "The only thing I can say is that they were just having fun. It was a bet. Some guys just didn't like all the fags in there. They just got carried away." □

Recall

Continued from page 1

a special recall election next spring have been collected.

Mecham, who once called Dwight Eisenhower a liberal, claims that the Recall Committee is made up of "homosexuals and a few distant Democrats." But the committee has forged a coalition of environmentalists, women, people of color and gay men and lesbians and has even, according to Buck, made inroads into the Republican Party, which is increasingly embarrassed at Mecham's blatant racism and homophobia. The committee has also managed to persuade several major conventions and concerts to boycott the state in protest of the governor. Performers Peter, Paul and Mary and U2 refused to visit the state and made large contributions to the committee. The National Basketball Association also refused to meet in the state.

Buck told GCN that Mecham's only problem is that he is "racist, sexist, homophobic and idiotic...he can't talk about issues without making a fool of himself."

The anti-Mecham furor began in January when Mecham defended a public school textbook by W. Cleon Skouser called *The Making of America*, in which Skouser refers to Black children as "pickaninnies." When Mecham refused to disavow the book and said that he used the term himself, activists leapt at the opportunity to focus criticism on the governor. Morris Udall blasted Mecham. Eric Barnett, Udall's assistant press secretary, told GCN that Mecham is an "embarrassment to the state. Morris believes that he [Mecham] has little concern for gays, Hispanics and Blacks who were making great progress in the state." Former Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt, the first presidential candidate to call for an executive ban on hiring discrimination for gay men and lesbians also supports the recall campaign. Mecham has called Udall a "jackass" and has said that he "does not give a damn what Babbitt says."

Ron Bellus, press secretary for Mecham, told GCN that Mecham simply does "not agree with the gay lifestyle.... He knows that puts him up for a lot of criticism but he feels that he has the right to say what he believes." Bellus added that Mecham's official policy, however, does not discriminate against gay men and lesbians. "We never inquire into the sexual preference, religious background or whatever of any employee.... But this is not Boston, sodomy is illegal in Arizona."

Bellus admitted, however, that there are no openly gay people working for the governor, who has been accused of political cronyism in hiring. "I wonder if he has any friends who have not gotten state jobs," said Buck.

Mecham and the state Republican leadership have accused the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) of masterminding a plot to discredit his administra-

tion. Urvashi Vaid, Public Information Director of NGLTF, said that although some of the Arizona membership is involved, the Task Force has little contact with the committee. "We certainly hope that the movement is a success, and that networking will continue beyond the election," said Vaid.

Buck, a former fashion model, said the Arizona movement is unique. He said the drive has been built by and large without the endorsements of official organizations. "I wish I could figure out how we have done this and what it all means. It's really just a bunch of individuals who have a common interest in seeing Mecham leave."

Arizona, Buck said, does not have gay and lesbian political organizations, just bars and groups of gay professionals. He explained that the committee is attempting to politicize these groups for the first time.

Despite the conservative tendency of much of the state and the lack of organized lesbian and gay political power, Buck said that most people have been very receptive to him and to the recall movement. "Once people have gotten used to an openly gay man involved in politics and seen how effective we can be, I have not had many problems." When asked if he had plans to run for political office after the recall campaign, Buck said he planned to "just rest."

filed from Boston □

Illinois

Continued from page 1

A major mover for these bills is Penny Pullen, the state representative from Park Ridge. Pullen is a member of the Eagle Forum, and, clearly in recognition of her work in the Illinois legislature, has been named to President Reagan's AIDS Advisory Committee. HB2044, which she authored, requires all couples applying for marriage licenses be tested for HIV antibodies, as must all residents due for release from the Illinois prison system, all persons convicted of a sex or drug related offense, and all clients between the ages of 18 and 55 checking into any hospital. The bill specifically denies the authority of laws protecting confidentiality.

This bill would cost hundreds of millions of dollars to implement and was unanimously denounced by medical authorities and the IAIAAC as expensive and ineffective where not actively counter-productive. This response to the bill led to the improbable charge that "the powerful gay lobby" had bribed or coerced the medical profession into making its critical statements!

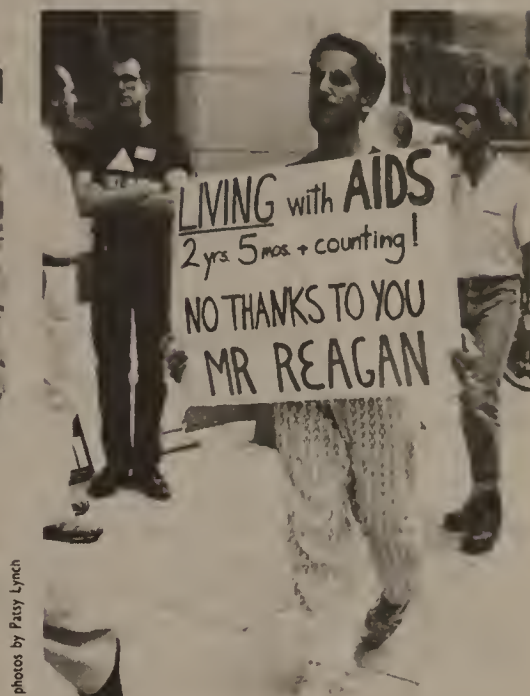
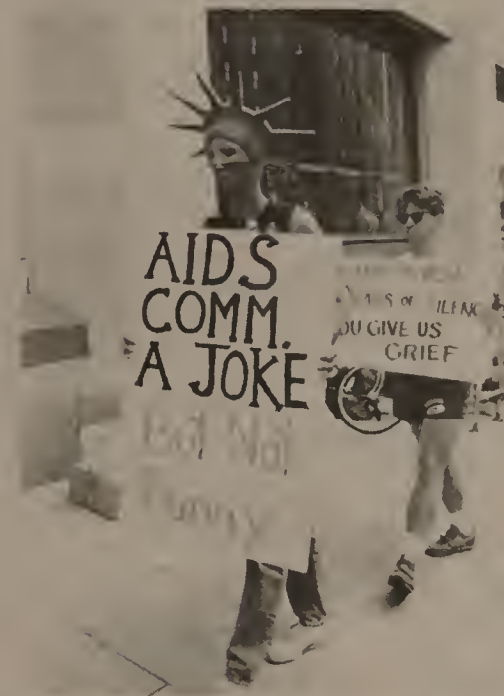
The bill passed 53-4 in the Senate and 84-24 in the House. Governor Thompson has stated he "wants to sign" this bill, but he almost certainly will veto it — with a show of reluctance — because of its steep implementation cost.

Even more draconian is HB2682, also co-sponsored by Pullen. This bill mandates contact tracing of all sexual partners of a

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Reagan's panel of AIDS "experts" convenes

Notorious homophobes begin work on national policy



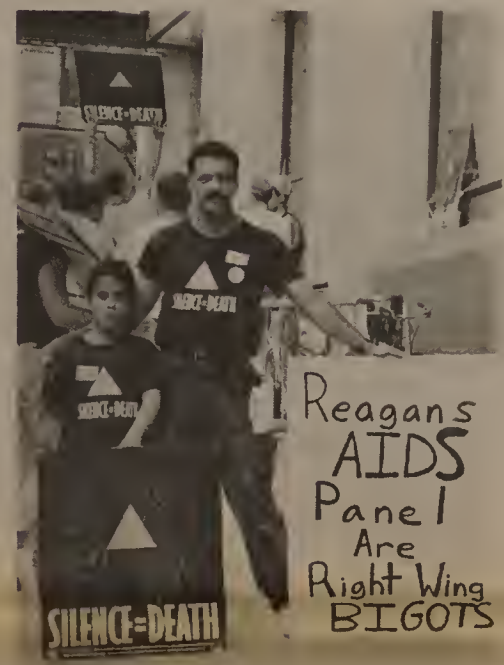
photos by Patsy Lynch

By Patsy Lynch

WASHINGTON, DC — Two busloads of demonstrators from the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) made the trip from New York to protest the opening meeting of the President's Commission on AIDS here.

Numbering about 100 at their peak, the protesters chanted and picketed outside while other lesbian and gay activists read declarations of protest to the commission panel during the open "speak out" portion of the meeting.

The commission, which has been criticized by gay and lesbian AIDS activists as composed mainly of conservative public figures who are either homophobic or ignorant about AIDS issues, has less than a year to produce a report outlining the administration's comprehensive national policy for dealing with the health crisis. □



Boston Herald slams Scondras staffers

Editorial says gay councilor should fire aides for involvement in Dobson sex case

By Chris Bull

BOSTON — A September 17 Boston Herald editorial called on gay City Councilor David Scondras to fire staff members French Wall and Gary Dotterman for their involvement in the two-month-old Committee for Civil Liberties and Sexual Freedom.

The ten-member committee was formed to defend the rights of gay men and lesbians accused of having sex with minors, according to committee member Ed Hougen, publisher of *The Guide*.

"An elected city official ought to have the moral sensitivity to know that there is no place on a public payroll for anyone who would support or protect those accused of abusing children in this manner," reads the *Herald* editorial.

Hougen said "It is deeply shocking that the editorial would criticize the defense of the accused, [who have not been] convicted, and their right to be treated fairly.... This sensationalistic journalism railroads the rights of the accused and intimidates, in the worst McCarthy fashion, people from speaking up. But we must not shy away from the issue."

The committee most recently defended Donald Dobson, who is accused of having sex with two teenagers, aged 14 and 15. Dobson was arrested in February after federal investigators questioned the teens for six hours. The teens' families gave permission for them to live with Dobson, who enrolled them in school and provided health care and English tutoring.

The teens have been confined in various locked facilities since February. "The real child molestation is being committed by the prosecutor for keeping the boys locked up,"

said Hougen. (See GCN Vol. 15, No. 6)

Scondras and a *Herald* official refused to comment. □



Boston City Councilor David Scondras

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“Airplane” pyramid scam: everyone is not a winner

Dear *GCN*:

It has come to our attention that a significant number of people in the lesbian and gay community — including a lot of allegedly political people — have become involved in the “Airplane” pyramid scam which is currently so popular in Boston.

We are stunned by the rationalizations we keep hearing from so-called feminists, gay activists and progressives, attempting to justify their participation. Even worse than the yuppie me-first greed which motivates participation in these games, is the pathetic new-age psycho-babble used to hide the truth about them.

The fact is that “Airplane” is a scam in which many people are guaranteed to lose their money. No one can argue honestly that these schemes go on indefinitely and that everyone is a winner. It all balances out; every single dollar made in a pyramid is lost by another player.

What is going on here? People who are disdainful of those they would call “yuppies” and who believe they have made better political choices themselves need to think again if they have bought into a plan which can only exist by ripping off others. In politics talk is cheap; how people use their money says a good deal more.

Michael Bronski
Kevin Cathcart
Cambridge, MA

I wish it could be me

Dear *GCN*:

I honestly wish it could be me attending the National March on Washington, but it can't be. I am in prison; physically, but not my soul and spirit. My reason for making this heartfelt plea to you is because this is the time for us to stand up and show the world our numbers.

Sometimes it takes the hard and difficult times as these to impress upon us the need for struggle. Whole communities have pulled together in times of crisis to rebuild. The greatest discoveries in medicine have resulted from the devastating effects of illness and disease.

This is our time! We need to become ONE, with one goal: the education of America. We need to show America that we are Proud of our past and POSITIVE about our future. We will survive!

Homophobia is here to stay unless we can

come out for yourself
come out for your friends
come out for Justice

NATIONAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON
FOR LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS
OCTOBER 11, 1987

convince the world that we will not stand for it any longer. We will continue to see others falsely accused and imprisoned because of their sexual preference and beliefs.

Please be there in DC on October 11, for me, and make our numbers count!

Sincerely,

Jeri Broxterman
Keller R-6 — 151971
PO Box 147
Lowell, FL 32663

Lesbian prisoners supplement: analytical and emotional

Dear *GCN*:

Kudos to the editors who produced

PAGE 4 ☐ SEPTEMBER 20-26, 1987

“Speaking Out/Reaching In,” your Aug. 23 lesbian prisoner supplement! I think it's among the best (if not *the* best) pieces of journalism I've seen in *GCN* in the 10+ years I've been reading the paper. I appreciated the balance of first-person testimonials, factual reporting, and theoretical discussion. That balance allowed me to be moved emotionally but let my brain take over just when I was about to go on overload and stop taking in what I was reading; conversely, just when I was getting too distant and analytical, the horrific specifics of someone's life in a cage would hit. It made me cry and it made me think — who could ask for anything more from one's community newspaper?

I loved the snippets of dialogue among the editors sprinkled throughout — an ingenious way to insert editorial voices without watering down five distinctive voices into one watered-down collective “we.” I loved the obvious thought, care, and thoroughness that went into the project. I loved the courage and wisdom of the lesbian prisoners who contributed. Thank you all so much for enriching my life.

Best—
Pam Mitchell
Cambridge, MA

Safe sex is for everyone

Dear *GCN*:

I was astonished and alarmed to read the following paragraph in the article, “AIDS and women in prison,” (*GCN* Aug. 23 Lesbian Prisoner Supplement): “But the truth is, *it is highly unlikely that AIDS will be transmitted from one woman to another by means of sexual contact.*”

I find this statement particularly surprising considering that 1) Your article “What's a Dyke to Do” (Aug. 9) advocates safe sex practices for lesbians because of the possibility of AIDS entering this community via drug abuse, artificial insemination, bisexuality, and because AIDS is sexually transmissible from women to men and women to women; and 2) The population your story addresses is known for its often violent behaviors (i.e., rape and lesbian battering), not to mention IV drug abuse.

While it is “less likely” that AIDS will be transmitted from woman to woman, it is *not* “highly unlikely.” I feel that your statement sends a dangerous message not only to lesbians in prison, but to lesbians everywhere. We cannot afford to go blithely on with our lives ignoring this disease in our community until it is too late.

We are all at risk, and safe sex is for everyone.

Sincerely,
Joanne Wolfe
Editor, *The Lavender Network*
Eugene, OR

GCN Job Openings

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Local Reporter (available November 1): Research, investigate and write news stories about Boston/New England, and, as necessary, national news stories. **Qualifications:** Strong writing skills and ability to write several news stories under weekly deadline pressure. Knowledge of local/national gay and lesbian community and issues helpful. **Deadline for application is October 8.**

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Salary/Benefits: All positions pay \$190/wk and include health/life insurance, sick leave, and four weeks paid vacation. GCN offers staff members responsibility for their own jobs with flexibility and ample room for innovation.

To apply for these positions, please send resume and cover letter ASAP to GCN Job Search Committee, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

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Opinions reflected in “editorials” represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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It is time for the wedding

By J. Carey Junkin and Walter Wheeler

We request the honour of your participation in

The Wedding

*on Saturday, the tenth of October
nineteen hundred and eighty seven
at two o'clock in the afternoon*

Washington, District of Columbia

*Semiformal
(Formal Optional)*

*Reception to follow
the ceremony*

For love and for life, we're not going back!

On October 10, 1987, hundreds and perhaps thousands of same-sex couples will demonstrate in Washington, D.C. for the recognition of our relationships. This demonstration, officially sponsored by the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, is intended to emphasize the March demand that lesbian and gay domestic partners be entitled to the same rights as married heterosexual couples.

The Wedding is a demand for equal rights. It is not a ceremony for people starting new relationships. We call it a wedding because our society has told us we cannot marry. It is time to tell the government and society that we already have committed on-going relationships which deserve the same recognition as heterosexual relationships.

Those of us in relationships must face the day-to-day repudiation of our on-going commitment. We must face employers that refuse to extend benefits to our partners, and insurance companies that not only reject us while living, but repudiate our relationships in death. We must contribute to a tax structure that subsidizes married heterosexual couples. We must fight con-

tinues to be held up both socially and financially without regard to the small percentage of Americans living in that situation.

Through tax laws, the government subsidizes the traditional families at the expense of the majority of tax payers. After years of living together and sharing our financial burdens, same-sex couples can still not file a joint tax return. We must continue to check "single." It is time to remove family structure from the tax tables.

Through their policies, the insurance industry ignores the existence of same-sex couples and to some extent children of gay and lesbian parents. Only through court action, by the National Gay Rights Advocates, did the American Automobile Club in California extend its insurance policies to cover all co-habiting adults. They still won't let us have joint memberships with the reduced associate membership dues. It is time for all organizations to extend family status to us.

Only because they are gay, the custody rights of parents are constantly denied. Most states will not let us adopt children. Many gay parents have actually been told that they must choose between their children and their partner. It is time for the social services community to recognize our families. It is time for the government to stop destroying our families and to leave their hands off our children.

Our own families even refer to our partners as "roommate" or "friend." Too often they ignore our relationships at family gatherings. Some families even strip away shared property upon the death of one partner. It is time for our families to extend the same love that they do for other in-laws.

There is only one qualification for family, and that is love. The lawyers and politicians may need their paper definition, but we have our love and commitment. Love makes a family — nothing less, nothing else.

Join us at The Wedding as a participant or supporter for equal rights. On to Washington!

J. Carey Junkin is a member of the National Steering Committee for the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, representing The Wedding. Walter Wheeler is the president of Couples, Inc., "the National Organization for the Advancement of Gay and Lesbian Couples." They can be reached at P.O. Box 13323, Los Angeles, CA 90013-0323.

"Speaking Out" is part of our continuing effort to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings and comments to us, and to respond to ideas expressed in this space. The opinions expressed are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN membership. Submissions must be TYPED, DOUBLE-SPACED, AND NO LONGER THAN FIVE PAGES. Send to: Speaking Out, GCN, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

tinually just to preserve our families.

Several years ago the Reverend Moon married a large number of heterosexual couples in a mass wedding. This ceremony was used to join people together, many of whom had just met, to obtain the numerous benefits of legal marriage. While this ceremony made a mockery of the law and real loving relationships, the government still recognized these marriages. It is an outrage that the same government will not acknowledge our loving relationships. It is time to demand that recognition.

The time has come for our society to recognize the true meaning of the word "family." The "ideal" or "Leave it to Beaver" family concept of the '50s con-

On lesbian and gay weddings and the urge to smash blenders

By Positively Revolting Affinity Group

Did you say a wedding? No, you're killing us. You mean as in the m-word, m-m-m-marriage? Be serious, not at the lesbian and gay march on Washington. We know it's the '80s and everything, but what's next — mass condo conversions? The very idea of lesbians and gay men engaging in a mass wedding ceremony makes us want to scream for days. Okay, okay, before we all have sore throats, let's look at the situation...

A quick jaunt through history

We can start by examining some definitions. According to good old Miriam Webster, marriage is "the institution whereby men and women are joined in a special kind of social and legal dependence for the purpose of founding and maintaining a family." (Jerry Falwell couldn't have said it any better!)

You think that's bad? Well, here's another. According to the English Oxford dictionary, "wed" means 1) a pledge, something deposited as security for payment or the fulfillment of an obligation sometimes of a person or hostage; 2) a condition of being pawned, mortgaged, given up as hostage, etc.; 3) originally to make (a woman) one's wife by the giving of a pledge...

While we realize these definitions sound a little outlandish, in fact we think they represent fairly well what marriage has been about.

Check out these charming examples, taken from Barbara Walker's book, *The Woman's Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets*: In the fifteenth century, Friar

our needs have been put on the back burner.

The limited value of lesbian and gay toaster ovens

While the history of marriage (which we've barely touched on) makes us want to pull our hair out, the idea of fitting lesbian and gay relationships into the context of marriage makes us want to burn buildings.

By being openly lesbian or gay we have already taken a step away from traditional heterosexual society. From this vantage point, we see the need to challenge the nature of relationships as they are prescribed by the straight world.

If we want to have our relationships be just like "theirs," what have we gained? A little health insurance here, a little tax write-off there, a little validation from the state and maybe even a toaster oven and a matching set of towels. But what does that get us in the long run?

Well, we'll tell you what it *doesn't* get us. It doesn't get us real validation for our lives, our lovers, our friends and our children. We don't know about you, but our friends include single lesbian mothers, nonmonogamous couples, celibate queers, lesbian and gay men who don't value long-term sexual relationships, couples in committed long-term relationships, committed non-sexual friends, and dykes and fags who are co-parenting children.

By getting married on October 10, lesbian and gay couples are ignoring all those dykes and fags who cannot or do not want to fit into a heterosexual structure. How insulting. While they are groping for their heterosex-

If we want our relationships to be just like "theirs," what have we gained? It doesn't get us real validation for our lives, our lovers, our friends and our children.

Cherubino told husbands to feel free to "scold, bully and terrify" their wives. "And if this still doesn't work...take up a stick and beat her soundly, for it is better to punish the body and correct the soul than to damage the soul and spare the body." A couple of centuries later, Sir William Blackstone, England's leading jurist, formulated the "Rule of Thumb" — a husband could beat his wife as long as his whip or rod was no thicker than his thumb.

In the United States it was not until 1962 that a judge ruled a woman could sue her husband for assault and battery. Prior to that it was feared such a suit would "destroy the peace of the home."

In case it's not already clear, outrages connected to marriage are not just relics from the distant past. In many states today marriage serves to legalize rape. In those states husbands cannot be prosecuted for raping their wives.

We're also not thrilled by the fact that marriage is a form of control beyond the personal relationship between a husband and wife. Families are alienated and separated from each other by government and the media which tell them to consume bigger and better and aspire to some elusive "American Dream." As long as families (straight or gay) buy into this concept, they will compete with each other for a piece of that elusive pie while those who are truly in power sit back and eat the whole pie — and the caviar, and the goose liver pate, and...

You've got to admit that women "got it the worst" in this marriage stuff. Wives who spend most of their waking time taking care of kiddies and hubbies (and often doing paid work on top of that) have little time to do anything else. In addition, marriage serves as an economic control — many wives who would like to leave their husband and/or family are stuck because they can't make it on their own financially.

Let's not forget that marriage has been used to perpetuate the myth that there is one Prince or Princess Charming out there who can satisfy all of your needs. What that has traditionally meant for women is that all of

ual rights and privileges, these fellow queers are invalidating us. Really, can't we do better than that?

It's true that if we want a few reforms here and there that's not bad. We'll take the toaster oven. But if we want real inclusive radical change we have to go a few steps beyond being bought off by appliances and insurance benefits. Reforms come and go with the times. Look what's happening to abortion rights or mandatory HIV testing or affirmative action. Real change cannot come until we stop looking for the government to hand us over our rights. We must take them for ourselves.

We're not saying that we should not validate and recognize our relationships. To lesbian or gay couples who have been happily together for the last twenty years we say L'Chaim! But we also cheer on lesbians who have been best friends since sixth grade, gay men who met last night and had a great time, and communities of dykes and fags who have been caring for and loving each other for whatever amount of time. Formal rituals, public affirmations of love, or raunchy classified ads are all great ways to affirm these relationships.

We were going to stand outside of the ceremony carrying larger-than-life toaster ovens and blenders "congratulating" the newlyweds. But we decided our limited energy was better spent elsewhere. And going to a massive, exciting lesbian and gay event and protesting other lesbians and gay men is a real bummer. We want to express our outrage at a heterosexual, racist and classist world, celebrate our potential as lesbian and gay people and basically raise hell. And so we will. But please, if you are planning to go to the Wedding, reconsider. Toaster ovens usually break in a few years anyway.

Positively Revolting is a Boston-area affinity group made up of Amelia Bye, Felice Shays, Kim Westheimer, Madeline Klyne, Karen Scholz, Maryann Kirkbride, Nora Janeway and Pam Bemis. There are lots of different kinds of non-couples, couples, trios and quadruplets among the eight of us.

Remembering Tom Davis

Activist dies in Columbus

By Bob Roehm

COLUMBUS, OH — “Our numbers are getting smaller,” said one of us during a group hug after Tom Davis’ memorial service. We had just celebrated Tom’s life with many of his friends — friends from the United Church of Christ, friends from the Columbus AIDS Task Force, friends from the doctor’s office where he had worked. Tom’s mother and aunt had traveled from the Akron area to attend. We gathered for song and informal sharing on a Friday evening near the Ohio State University. It was the way Tom had wanted his service to be.

We shared stories of how Tom had touched our lives. We laughed. And we cried. We heard some of Tom’s favorite poetry. We read letters from friends who could not attend. Some of us expressed anger at the church. Anger that Tom, who had been a minister in the United Church of Christ, would be almost completely ignored by the church both after leaving the parish ministry

and after his diagnosis of AIDS. Anger that someone who had shared so much talent and ability and love with the church would now be overlooked by the institution he had so faithfully served.

“Such a gentle man. I’m going to miss him,” one of us said. Tom was an important part of our Ohio Conference group, a chapter of the United Church Coalition for Lesbian/Gay Concerns (UCCL/GC). We often met at Tom & Frank’s home in Columbus. They lived in the Tivoli apartment complex near downtown and we sometimes called their apartment “Tivoli UCC.”

“We are glad that Tom lived.” We spoke these words three times in unison at the end of the service, each time louder than the last. We will miss you, Tom. Yet the gifts you brought to us during our time together can never be taken away. Part of you will live with us always. □

Illinois

Continued from page 3

PWA of the past seven years by the Department of Public Health. It requires private doctors to report positive results of HIV antibody tests. Finally, it provides for the possible quarantine of PWAs.

A primary fear of this bill’s opponents was that people who suspected they would test positive would “go underground” rather than seek help. This fear has been already substantiated. Since the bill was passed, almost half of the appointments made for HIV testing in the Chicago area have not been kept. Howard Brown Memorial Clinic, Chicago’s gay/lesbian health clinic, has announced that it will stop administering the HIV test if this bill is signed into law. As with HB2044, there is little chance that Thompson will actually sign this bill, but it has already had a serious negative impact on the state.

One of Pullen’s bills does have a serious chance of passage. SB651 is a non-mandatory version of HB2682, allowing contact tracing and quarantine if a court order is issued. Since this bill does not include provisions for funding, its effect would be largely symbolic, an ideological statement in support of tracing and quarantine rather than an actual program. However, this lack of funding makes it possible for Thompson to sign it and give the right wing a visible, if shallow, victory.

The gay and lesbian community fights back

The Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force (IGLTF) lobbied hard while the bills were on the floor, struggling to block the Pullen bills and refusing to endorse White’s amendment of the AIDS Confidentiality Act. But now the matter rests with Governor Thompson, whose wide veto powers include a “line” veto, or the privilege of excluding any portion of a bill before he signs it. Within days of the bills’ passage, the IGLTF was mobilizing to urge Thompson to veto them. The annual gay/lesbian pride parade

was dominated by “VETO” signs. An IGLTF table at the largely-gay Halsted Street Fair in mid-July collected 1,500 handwritten post cards to the governor, and the Task Force hopes to get more than 5,000 letters sent to Thompson.

On August 15th a 24-hour vigil was held outside Governor Thompson’s mansion on the north side of Chicago. Organized by Dykes and Gay Men Against Repression (DAGMAR), the vigil was attended by about 400 people. The governor was not at home at the time, but an hour after the vigil began police required the demonstrators to move across the street. Towards the end of the vigil six of the protesters risked chaining themselves to Governor Thompson’s fence as an act of civil disobedience.

The gay and lesbian community’s protests have received good media coverage, but at this point there is little the community can do to directly influence events. “The impact of the bills’ passage depends on what comments Thompson makes when he signs them,” explained Tim Drake of the IGLTF. “If he signs them but says he won’t do anything [to enforce or fund them] it puts the gay community in a bind. But if he tries to implement reporting or tracing, the ACLU will challenge it.” According to Drake, the IGLTF is doing outreach to the Independent Voters of Illinois, the ACLU, and Chicago NOW for support in urging Thompson not to sign the bills.

Treating AIDS with administrative shake-ups

Meanwhile, non-legislative attempts to deal with AIDS have also shown signs of politically-motivated AIDS fears. On July 29th, Dr. Renslow Sherer, chair of Governor Thompson’s AIDS Interdisciplinary Advisory Council and co-founder of Cook County’s AIDS clinic, announced that Cook County Hospital would open an AIDS ward in the fall. The next day, Dr. Sherer was removed from his post as acting director of the hospital’s AIDS services and hospital director Terrence Hansen disputed Sherer’s statement.

There is speculation that Sherer’s removal may have been ordered from as high up as the Cook County Board, which earlier this year refused to allow a doctor with AIDS to practice at Cook County Hospital. Sherer is fighting his removal, which Cook County Hospital attributes to his making an “inappropriate” press statement. Sherer has already won the first round in his fight, when a local court refused to allow Cook County Hospital the right to “gag” its employees, declaring such practice incompatible with freedom of speech.

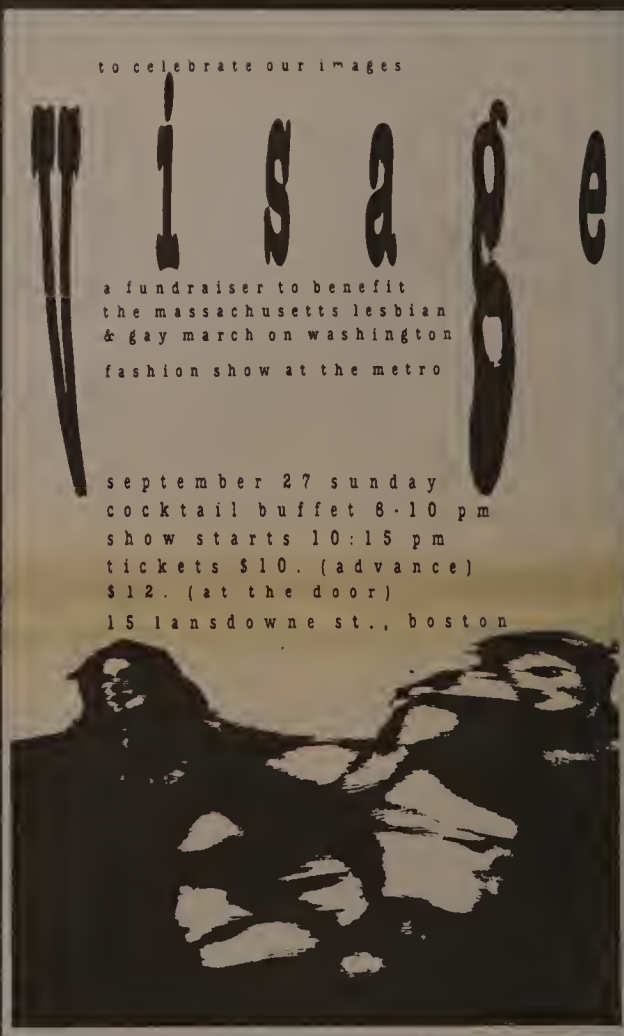
Aside from high-profile actions like Sherer’s removal and Pullen’s AIDS legislation, little has been done by local agencies to combat AIDS or provide services for PWAs. The IGLTF, the Chicago Area Republican Gay Organization (CARGO), and Illinois Gay and Lesbian Physicians have criticized Chicago Health Commissioner Lonnie Edwards for failing to provide direction to the efforts against AIDS. K. T. Reddi, chief of the city’s Infectious Disease Control Unit, was forced to resign in July for failing to comply with the city’s residential requirements for its employees. It was widely believed in the gay and lesbian community that Reddi was being offered up as a scapegoat for Edwards, while some straight

Continued on back page

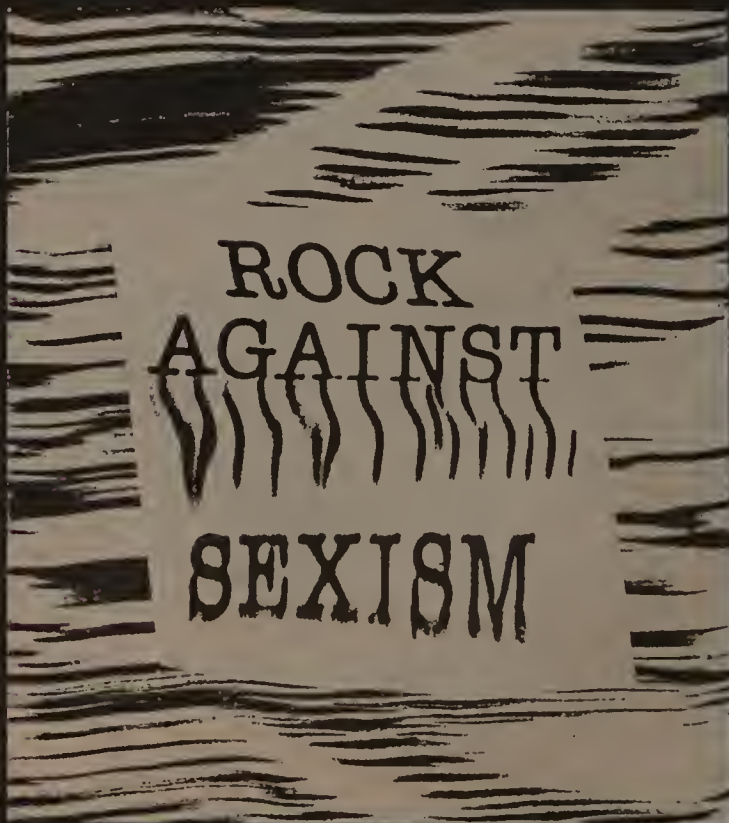
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Protesters picket Illinois governor’s mansion.

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Tom (John Malkovich) and Laura (Karen Allen) in *The Glass Menagerie*.

Celluloid menagerie

Sweethearts, Mermaids *and* Maurice find a home
at the Boston Film Festival

By Michael Bronski and Loie Hayes

This year's Boston Film Festival boasts more than a smattering of gay- and lesbian-interest films, as well as an assortment of political and independent features. We've compiled the following hit list, with some comments, of the movies *GCN* readers may especially want to see. We've also noted those titles scheduled for a regular run at local theaters. Look for longer *GCN* reviews closer to commercial openings. All screenings will be at Copley Place, except for a showing of *The International Sweethearts of Rhythm* at the Institute of Contemporary Art on Sept. 20, two showings of *Maurice* to benefit the ICA — at the ICA on Sept. 21, at the Cheri theater on Sept. 22, and a showing of *The Glass Menagerie* at the Paris theater on Sept. 17.

Thursday, 9/17

I've Heard the Mermaids Singing. A first feature from Canadian director/writer Patricia Rozema, *Mermaids* stars Polly, a wacky woman who works as a secretary and develops her own photos in her bathroom sink. She's ostensibly straight but becomes infatuated with her boss, Gabrielle, a lesbian art gallery curator. The film alternates between a video-taped confession, black-and-white fantasies and a narrative that follows the interactions of Polly, Gabrielle and Gabrielle's lover, Mary. Full of humor, and chi-chi dykes, *Mermaids* has lots to say about creativity and the art world. Also screened on Sunday, 9/20, and will begin a commercial run at the Nickelodeon on Oct. 2.

Matewan. The new film by John Sayles (he did the lovely *Lianna*) is set in West Virginia during the coal miners' strikes of the late 1920s. Sayles' progressive politics and his vision of union organizing and male relationships should make a potent combination.

The Glass Menagerie. This production of Tennessee Williams' most famous play is lovely. But the big surprise is that the role of Tom — based upon the playwright's own life, as played here by John Malkovich — is identifiably gay. Malkovich exhibits a certain feyness and softness most others are afraid to use when they do the part. Due to open next month at the Copley.

Friday, 9/18

My Life for Zarah Leander. West German director Christian Blackwood has created an ambitious documentary focused on a gay man's adoration of singer/actress Zarah Leander. Paul, the fan, talks to the camera, shows us his Leander memorabilia and is seen walking with a person (drag queen?) who looks like Leander. The best parts are the vintage footage of Leander herself, a "bulldog" of a woman with a marvelous contralto voice and no regrets about having gained her greatest fame working in Nazi studios during World War II. Limited by its small-budget look and by Paul's self-pitying pop-psychologizing, *My Life* has some provocative stuff to say about the thoughts of Nazi-employed gay men's attraction to divas, fame and butch women. No commercial runs but may return for the upcoming gay/lesbian film festival.

Too Outrageous. This sequel to the enormously popular film *Outrageous* stars female impersonator Craig Russell who is still pretending to be Peggy Lee, Judy Garland and Barbra Streisand. Directed by Dick Benner, the story continues the adventures of Russell and his best friend, a schizophrenic writer, played by Hollis McLaren. The first *Outrageous* was such a hit that it played for more than a year at the old Orson Welles Cinema and made a star out of Russell. This evening's performance will be a benefit for Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders; there will be a reception later — at a local gay bar — to meet the stars. Will open commercially the end of October.

Anna. This Polish update of *All About Eve* is directed by Yurek Bogayevicz and written by Agnieszka Holland, one of the few women working in Eastern European films (she directed *Angry Harvest* last year). The story takes place on New York's Lower East Side and concerns two women who enter a symbiotic friendship with one another. There is a great deal of sexual tension, although no actual sex. The film stars Sally Kirkland, who was a vital performer in the newly emerging 1960s off-Broadway and experimental film movements. No commercial opening set as of yet.

Sorceress. Boston screenwriter Pam Berger teamed up with director Suzanne Schiffman (who has worked with Truffaut in the past) to make this lush portrait of 13th century France. The male lead is a priest who arrives in a village in search of heretics to burn. The female lead is the herbal healer he accuses of witchcraft. It's an archetypal battle between masculine church/state corruption and intuitive feminine perseverance. Will open commercially though the date's not set.

Saturday, 9/19

Orphans. Directed by Alan J. Pakula (he did *The Sterile Cuckoo* years ago, as well as *Kluge*), this film deals with two brothers who live on the fringe and decide to kidnap a gangster to be a father to them. Matthew

Continued on page 11



Craig Russell as Eartha Kitt in *Too Outrageous*.

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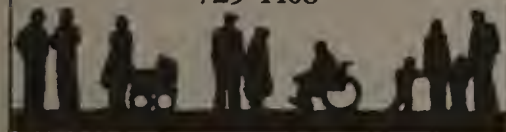
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By Mara Math

“It’s very difficult to imagine our present self without being able to imagine an historical self,” a participant in a lesbian history workshop said. The good news at the seventh annual Berkshire Conference on the History of Women was that it *did* help us imagine our historical selves, acknowledging lesbian research to be valid and valuable. One member of the Programming Committee for the June 19-21 event was specifically in charge of developing lesbian content. As a result, every time slot offered at least one workshop on lesbian history, for a total of 11 out of 181 workshops and four out of approximately 12 evening presentations.

The bad news: lesbian workshops were consistently scheduled in tiny and inconvenient spaces, the programmer’s attendance estimates having been ignored (at best) by the schedulers. And, unfortunately, workshops on women of color were notably lacking this year.

Judith Schwarz of the Lesbian Herstory Archives opened the Berks with a slideshow presentation, “Women Who Did Things and Did Things Openly — Lesbians and Other Radicals in Greenwich Village.” With a title like that, who could resist? Several hundred women jammed in for this witty presentation drawn largely from Schwarz’s book, *Heterodoxy* (New Victoria Pub., 1982, \$6.95). *Heterodoxy* was a club self-defined as for “the unusual and active woman.” Its only restriction on speakers was that they be against censorship.

Members included labor organizer Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Provincetown Playhouse co-founder Susan Glaspell, actress Fola LaFollette, suffragist Crystal Eastman, and Jewish labor organizer Sarah Splint. *Heterodoxy* members were indeed heterogeneous, in class, ethnicity, sexuality, and politics if not in race. According to Schwarz, there was only one woman of color, Grace Nail Johnson. Lesbians were open and comfortable in *Heterodoxy*, and had loving friendships with straight members. However, homophobia may have been one reason *Heterodoxy*, in an era of growing conservatism, disbanded; conflicts over pacifism were another factor.

In a workshop on “Love and Friendship in the Lesbian Bar Communities of the 1940s, 50s and 60s,” Pat Gozemba and Janet Kahn discussed their research on a gay bar in Lynn, Massachusetts. Formerly called Lighthouse, the bar is now known as Fran’s Place. The working-class lesbians the researchers focused on often had no social alternatives to the bar; as a result of the constant drinking, alcoholism and violence were prevalent. “The women we interviewed we see as survivors,” Gozemba and Kahn explained. They added, however, that the social network was tight and supportive; the researchers met most of their study participants at a “reunion” of bar regulars, many of whom are now in their sixties and seventies.

These women testify that choosing a butch or femme role was crucial for acceptance in the bar culture; those who did not conform to either of these roles were shunned and dismissed contemptuously as “ki-ki” (rhymes with sky). Kahn and Gozemba hypothesize that butch/femme roles served as a social order, “lending clarity to how to present themselves to the outside world.” One of the most interesting insights at the conference came from commentator John D’Emilio, who was struck by the restrictions on friendship — butch-but or femme-femme, but never cross-category. He suggested that butch-femme division served as in incest taboo in the lesbian community, guaranteeing that women would always have a support network,

made up of friends with whom they could not get involved and consequently be alienated from. I would add that a parallel can be drawn to the gender division of labor, which is always invented (i.e., not “natural”) and serves to enforce interdependence in tribal cultures.

In a presentation called “Breaking Up is Hard to Do,” Liz Kennedy and Madeline Davis investigated serial monogamy in the Buffalo lesbian community 1940-1960. They found the most important difference between lesbian and heterosexual relationships to be that lesbians acknowledged the varieties of romantic interest. Was serial monogamy making the best of a bad situation or a genuine alternative created by these women? As usual, the answer is probably some of both.

A special joy in both of these presentations was the faithful — the exact — rendering of working class women’s diction and syntax. These women came alive for us in their own tongue, not tidied up into faceless “subjects.”

Three more lesbian communities were covered in “The Evolution of Contemporary Lesbian Community.” In the Fire Island enclave Cherry Grove, researcher Esther Newton found that, “A mix of gender bending, hard drinking, community building and cruising was the norm.” Natalea Murray (Janet Flanner’s lover), Carson McCullers, Patricia Highsmith (who wrote *The Price of Salt* under the name Claire Morgan), and some “Follies girls” were among the lesbian luminaries of this upper and upper-middle class community. Classism played a large part in the disintegration of the original Cherry Grove community, as the early members withdrew in horror of the new working-class bar-dyke arrivals. Referring to these different lesbian populations, Newton commented, “It makes no sense to speak of ‘the’ community or ‘lesbian’ history, and yet lesbian stories cross and re-cross, our roots tangled and intertwined.”

In her research on the Albuquerque gay community, 1965-1980, Patricia Franzen also found class to be a divisive issue; bargaining and non-bar lesbians “defined themselves in opposition to each other.” Age and politics were other dividing factors, the latter also true in Eleanor Lord’s study of the Berkshire County community. Lord found that as the community she lived in grew, cohesion dwindled, but that the informal structure of the community helped it weather stress. She hopes the process of interviewing women for this study — “having subjects focus” — contributed to community harmony.

These lesbian/feminist historians exemplify what make our historians so unusual: an awareness of process and a sense of accountability. In a later workshop, for instance, a researcher explained that as a Westerner studying Indian homosexuality, she chose to focus on the Western lesbian or gay experience of India, so as to remain honest and not condescend or objectify. (Due to the punitive and repressive way the Reagan administration is using the McCarran-Walter Act, some women from outside the U.S. will not be named in this article; any researchers who are named cannot, of course, be assumed to be lesbian.)

These issues of process and accountability proved to be at the heart of the roundtable discussion “Making History Bigger: Grassroots Lesbian History Projects.” A Canadian from Lesbians Making History in Toronto explained that although it was difficult to keep her research collective representative of those interviewed, this didn’t mean the work could not be done. Poet and

fiction writer Jewelle Gomez urged, “We should consider ourselves adversarial historians.” She pointed out that doing work on Black lesbians is often difficult because people of color have for so long been reduced to sexual identities, and resist such identification now. Marianna of the Latina Lesbian History Project spoke of the need for intuitive work with oral history, to compensate for the erasure of pre-colonial history. In an effort to combat historian burnout, San Francisco’s Lesbian and Gay Historical Project and Gay and Lesbian Historical Society try to promote “the doing of history by others [non-historians],” according to member Sharon Ullman.

Presentations in “The Transition to Modern Lesbianism in Denmark and Holland” raised another recurring theme of the conference: romantic friendship. K. of Denmark said that until the word “homosexual” was coined in 1869, a person who engaged in acts of sodomy or tribadism was subject to legal punishment, “but at breakfast you were just an ordinary person.” With the creation of the term by sexologists, homosexuality became regarded as a condition rather than a series of acts. Using medical records of the time, K. was able to establish that many prostitutes were lesbians, and many were kept by other women. In this small country (2.5 million at the turn of the century), “spinster couples” were common and often fairly public. K.’s thesis is that “spinster love” did not die with the emergence of “the homosexual women” as a category, but rather was a casualty of the heterosexual nuclear family advocated so heartily by many spinsters in their social work. “Avoiding marriage themselves but socializing everyone else into marriage, the spinsters were digging their own graves — the spinster became a ridiculous figure.”

A Dutch researcher discussed the role of medical science in the conceptualization of lesbianism. At the end of the 19th century, medical scientists began to view romantic friendship as sexual. Romantic friendship was generally limited to the middle- and upper middle-class, while outside the bourgeoisie, according to M., women had more explicitly sexual relationships labeled “queer appetites.”

Commentator Lilliam Faderman argued that the transition really took place between 1890 and 1910. At that time the development of “companionate [heterosexual] marriage” — as opposed to business-like matches — supposedly eliminated the need for same-sex romantic friendship. She also argued middle class women may have been sexually active, but were more closeted about it than working class women.

We owe deep thanks to historians such as Faderman and Carroll Smith-Roseberg who have brought to light the “romantic friendship” part of women’s history. However, I am uneasy with the insistence that almost all relationships between women were non-sexual — and that all non-genital touch is non-sexual. For example, in reference to a female inmate of a sanitarium, Faderman commented at one point, “Her activities did not include sexual activities, they never went beyond kissing and embracing.”

While I don’t believe that every woman who ever called another woman “dear” was a lesbian, neither do I believe that no women had sex until the early 1900s. Scholarly caution is necessary, and historians are wise to avoid imposing our twentieth-century concepts on our predecessors, but how much of this scholarly reticence is homophobia? Is this “non-sexual” approach in the long term promoting

one of the stereotypes of women, that we are not as “animal” and sexual as men are?

In my nightmare fantasy, inspired by a denial-ridden biography of Amy Lowell (who lived with Ada Russell for 26 years), an historian reads aloud to a group a letter from Spinster J to her companion, Spinster K: “I long to crush you in my arms again, to kiss your sweet breasts, and to feel your fire consume me...” And the historian then explains, “But they weren’t really *Doing It*; they weren’t lesbians.”

A friend and I sat at the conference lamenting the fact that we have so little hard proof. We will never unearth home videos of Amy Lowell and Ada Russell to prove our heartfelt contention that Lowell was a lesbian. Does it matter? Can we assume the absence of something that has so often been falsely assumed absent in our own contemporary lives? Is lesbianism a decadent Western middle-class phenomenon or conversely, an “underclass” phenomenon when it is explicitly sexual? And did it really only begin in the last century?

The “Asian Lesbians” workshop provided some welcome answers. A wonderful slideshow by June Chan of Asian Lesbians of the East Coast both remedied the all-too-common invisibility of Asian lesbians and provided tangible proof that women have been consciously sexual with each other for millennia. Stone carvings from 1000 AD show women making love; a Japanese drawing from approximately 1603 depicts a common scene, “warming the dildo.” The slideshow is not limited to explicit sexual images but also presents goddesses, amazons, and warriors; political feminists such as Yosano Akiko, author of the poem “Mountain Moving Day”; and Asian lesbians in the U.S. today.

Two women from India discussed the isolation that most lesbians in India must contend with. Like Betty Friedan’s insistence that lesbianism was merely “a lavender herring” for the Women’s Movement here, the Indian Women’s Movement claims that lesbianism is “not the issue” and is a Western phenomenon. Several expatriate Indian lesbians have formed a newsletter, *Anamika*, to reach out to other Indian lesbians.

In “Exploration of Identity in Lesbian Art, 1905-30” Flavia Rondo and Tee Corinne observed that the avant-garde (male-dominated) art world was radical in technique but reactionary in subject, continually reconstructing female identity. Romaine Brooks, the subject of Rondo’s presentation, was traditional in style but radical in the subject of self-definition. Tee Corinne also showed slides of some wonderful photographs by Natalie Barney and friends, which document the lesbian relations and aesthetic in their circle. (Commentator Gayle Rubin brought the butch-femme theme to an apex of absurdity with her contention that it is vitally important to determine whether the long-haired, cross-dressing Natalie Barney was *really* a butch or *really* a femme... Is it?)

The lesbian history workshops at the Berkshire Conference revealed two exciting new directions in lesbian research. The first is a new honesty about alcoholism, violence, and other negative aspects of our past; we have outgrown the need for exclusively “role model” history and are all the richer for this new openness. Equally important is the move beyond those few upper-class women who left diaries. We are exploring the lives of those too often ignored or invisible: working-class bar dyke, Asian lesbians, queer prostitutes. We are reclaiming our own.

t Lily was a lesbian

ference tells stories of working class bar dykes,
s, queer prostitutes



Living lesbian herstory

"We want a chance to say how we lived, what we looked like, and how we made love in our own words."

—Deb Edel of Lesbian Herstory Archives

By Patricia A. Gozemba

For me, the real excitement of lesbian herstory is the live, told-in-person tales of women still with us — what I call living lesbian herstory. Thanks largely to Liz Kennedy of SUNY Buffalo and the Buffalo Women's Oral History Project, this year's Berkshire Conference on the History of Women showcased some of the most interesting lesbian history work of this kind. Two sessions in particular, "Aunt Lily Was a Lesbian" and "Daughters of Bilitis: An Oral History," deserve special attention; in organizing these sessions Kennedy was assisted by the women of Lesbian Herstory Archives.

In introducing "Aunt Lily Was A Lesbian," Edel pointed out that as lesbians there is "no folklore for us. We did not sit at our grandmothers' knees hearing the stories of lesbian lives. Songs were not sung to us about lesbian lives." She added, "The Archives is about ending disenfranchisement, ending disinheritance, and about having control over our own history, about having the right to make the choice to pass on to the next generation our own stories.... We want the Archives and we want our lives to reflect the fullness, the complexity, the richness, and the diversity of lesbian culture. We do not want it picked for us, controlled for us, or defined for us as it has been in the past and still goes on too frequently today."

In the first presentation from our many "aunts," Gerry Faier of New York, a grandmother in her seventies, regaled the audience of over 500 with stories of going to bars in New York City in the 1950s. She recalled the fear she had of being caught in a bar raid and that she and her buddies plotted to "claim that they were there doing research." For Gerry, as for many of the members of her generation, the bars played a central role in their social lives. Gerry stated proudly that she "fell madly in love every other weekend."

Lynn Berry of the Moody Gardens Gang, a group of women who socialized at Moody Gardens in Lowell, Massachusetts in the 1950s, recounted the story of how the gang got back together at the Pulaski Club in Lowell in 1979 for its first reunion of over 150 women. Her story of the continuity of the Moody Gardens Gang stands as testimony to the kinds of communities lesbians are sustaining. Lynn noted that the last reunion, held at Crotchet Mountain, New Hampshire, drew 450 women all over the age of 50: "We played all the old music, reminisced about the old days, and had a great time."

Mary Sault told stories of growing up lesbian in the 1930s Boston area. She focused on relationships, saying "couples were a little different then, you could always tell then who was the butch and who was the femme and we used those words quite a bit." Saying she always was and always will be a femme, Mary spoke of her first relationship which lasted for 20 years. She was enthusiastic about the freedom younger lesbians have now to move away from their families and live with lovers. Most poignantly she pointed out how "marvelous it is that men and women can get together now in groups and meet." Somewhat coyly she told the audience that she too had joined a group and what she "was looking for really" was a lover over 50.

Mabel Hampton of the Lesbian Herstory

Archives recalled for the audience her first memory of acting out her passion for women. At her fourth birthday party, "I locked all the boys in the kitchen and took the girls into the woods [with me] where I had a ball with them." Despite the subsequent furor — when all the mothers came looking for the girls — Mabel remembered that birthday as special. In her words, "I always had a ball for myself with all the pretty girls, all my life." She also spoke of the relationship she had with her lover between 1932 and 1979 — a relationship that ended only with her lover's death. Hampton, a Black activist well known to lesbian audiences because of her role in *Before Stonewall*, charmed the audience with her stories of clubs in New York such as the Garden of Joy.

These women's stories gave us a chance to experience the vitality of the oral history work undertaken by grassroots projects across the country. I hope it also encourages us to increase financial support of Lesbian Herstory Archives.

"Daughters of Bilitis: An Oral History" brought together four of the founding mothers of DOB: Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon of San Francisco who started the organization; Barbara Gittings of Philadelphia who came along at a critical moment and edited *The Ladder* newsletter as well as founding the New York City chapter; and Lois Johnson who became President of Boston DOB in 1974 and continues to serve in that capacity in the oldest existing chapter in the U.S.

Martin noted somewhat ironically how "politically correct" the founding group of DOB was, for it included a Filipina, a Latina, two lesbian mothers, four pink collar workers, and four blue collar workers. Both Martin and Lyon elaborated on the climate of fear that existed in those McCarthy heydays. There were monumental struggles to make women feel secure enough to come to meetings and even be on the mailing list for *The Ladder*.

Gittings focused on the development of *The Ladder* under her editorship between 1963-66. She said the magazine became more bold — in terms of using real photographs of lesbians. She added, however, that most of the photographs of that era were of women from other countries.

Johnson outlined the history of DOB Boston from 1969 to the present, noting the organization's function as a "coming out organization, providing a comfortable milieu for women." DOB routinely offers about 15 rap sessions a month for Boston women. The group offers "friendship, nurturance, and outreach," social functions as badly needed now as they were in the early days of DOB.

In an effort to preserve the history of DOB Boston, the group has been donating its records to the Schlesinger Library at Harvard; the history of DOB New York is preserved at the Lesbian Herstory Archives.

The live history offered in both these sessions cannot be matched by any second-hand recounting. The lesson should be clear for all of us: get out and dig up our folklore. Every lesbian has a story and all of our stories are our heritage.

Note: Videotapes of these sessions are available from the Lesbian Herstory Archives in New York.

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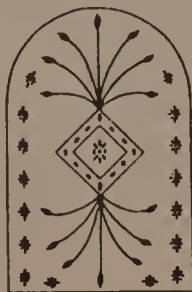
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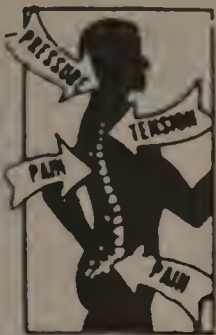
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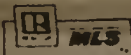
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Maurice (James Wilby) and Clive (Hugh Grant) in **Maurice**.

Celluloid

Continued from page 7

Modine (from *Birdie* and *Visionquest*) gives another performance so refined and sensitive, so filled with complex emotional and psychological nuance that you could swear he's gay. Opens commercially in two weeks.

Sunday, 9/20

I've Heard the Mermaids Singing. (See 9/17).

Slam Dance. Wayne Wang, who did the wonderful *Chan is Missing* and *Din Sum* several years ago, has taken on a whole new look, feel and subject matter here. *Slam Dance* is a stylish, beautifully filmed, *noir* set in Los Angeles. Tom Hulce and Harry Dean Stanton star. There is an evil lesbian here, but nothing "gay" in the film. It is fascinating, however, to see what an artist who has been dedicated to filming Asian-American experience, can do with a major studio. Should open in a month or so.

Eat the Rich. Directed by Peter Richardson, this British film is raucous and rude. A group of social outcasts — including a transvestite — start an all-out war on the hoity-toity of the London wealthy set. No commercial opening set.

The International Sweethearts of Rhythm. A documentary about the all-female, predominantly Black band which played throughout the U.S. during the '40s. Directed by Greta Schiller and Andrea Weiss, the women who made *Before Stonewall* along with Rob Rosenberg. The 30-minute *Sweethearts*, showing at the ICA, includes vintage film clips.

Monday, 9/21

Night Zoo. This Canadian urban crime drama by Jean Claude Lauzon — one of Canada's only openly gay directors — is shocking, and its father/son relationship provocative. There is no commercial opening set but it may end up in the Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

The Mozart Brothers. Erotic chaos backstage at the Stockholm Opera fills this film by Swedish director Suzanne Osten. The company is scheduled to perform Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and the new artistic director is turning all their expectations upside down. The sexuality is mostly heterosexual but it's polymorphous and Swedish enough to throw some homoeroticism into the perverse mash. Weird, wonderful, a must-see for opera queens. Opening at the Nickelodeon in early October.

Maurice. Probably the film everyone is waiting for in the festival. Based upon E. M. Forster's autobiographical novel and made by the men who brought you *Room with a View* two years ago, it will be filled with beautiful scenery, beautiful boys, beautiful emotions and lots of romantic music. *Maurice* will also show Sept. 22 and 24 and will open at the Nickelodeon later this month.

Tuesday, 9/22

Beethoven's Nephew. This promises to be an odd film as rumors abound that Beethoven was gay and had an affair, or at least was in love, with his nephew. A German/American production, the director is underground filmmaker and Andy Warhol protege, Paul Morrissey (he did *Heat, Flesh* and *Frankenstein*). The collision between the director and the subject matter should be startling. No commercial opening set, but check out the Gay and Lesbian Film Festival in a few months.

Maurice (See 9/21.)

Wednesday, 9/23

Ping Pong. Very similar to Wayne Wang's *Chan is Missing*, this British film by Po Chih Leong explores what it means to be an Asian living in modern day England. It deals with assimilation and identity in the context of a mystery surrounding the execution of a will. No commercial run is set as of now.

Blind. Deaf. These films by documentary filmmaker Fred Wiseman are an important addition to both his *oeuvre* and our understanding of the diversity of human, physical and emotional experiences. These will not have a commercial run and given how few outlets documentary films have, catch them now if you are at all interested.

Thursday, 9/24

Multi-Handicapped. Adjustment and Work. Two more films by director Fred Wiseman in the series that includes *Blind* and *Deaf*. (See 9/23.)

Sammy and Rosie Get Laid. This is the newest film directed by Stephen Frears and written by Hanif Kureishi, the men responsible for *My Beautiful Laundrette*. Although there is no gay content here — Kureishi is openly gay — *Sammy and Rosie* is a scathing indictment of Margaret Thatcher and a vision of England rife with violence, decay and strife. A commercial opening is due within the month.

Maurice. (See 9/21.) □



A scene from *The International Sweethearts of Rhythm*.



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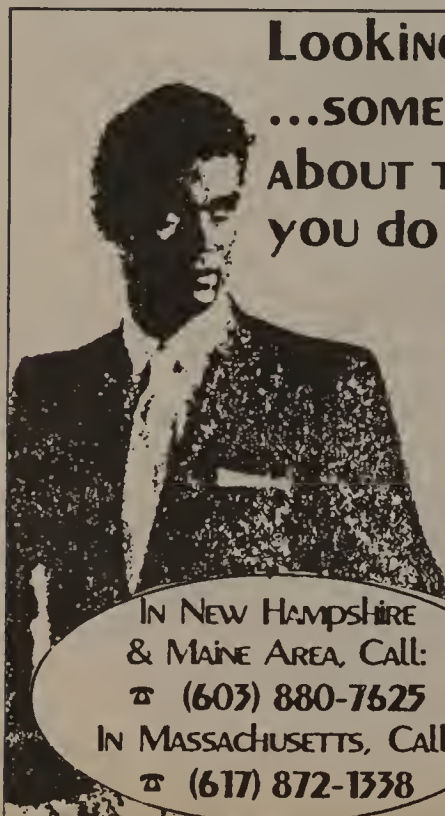
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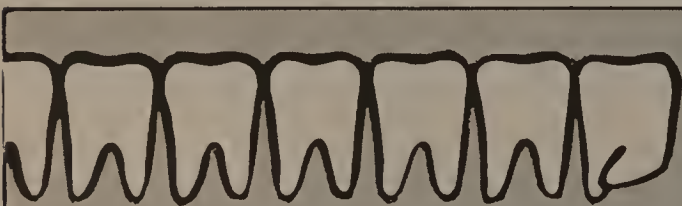
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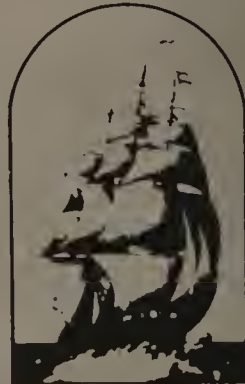
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I am from the San Francisco area and am 35. I love the beach and sun and traveling and know a lot about people and care about them. I would love to have a penpal. Chris JOCCHINI, W21111—WB939L, Frontier CA 91720.

I am a lesbian and have been since the age of 12. I'm 28 now, my sign is Leo, I'm honest, kind and friendly, and looking for a friend. Patricia COLEMAN, A150479—159, PO Box 8540, Pembroke Pines, FL 33024.



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Maybe you are asking yourself, well his family must keep in touch by writing. If by some chance that is a question in your mind, I will answer, my family can't except the fact that I am gay and have been since 14, when I took to the streets which is why I'm here today. I had no real friends because a real friend would not abandon a friend no matter what happens. I would cherish the chance to write someone who shares the same feelings I have. I'm an intelligent person and would enjoy writing. I'll answer soon. (Same day) Dave HAMLEY, 179-309, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

I'm a gay prisoner doing time for theft, and out of the closet finely. Anyway a friend posted me on one of your papers and I LOVED IT! I would like to hear from any nice man whos friendly and who loves to write. I'm a very friendly person whos very lonely. PS: very horny too! Scott TANNER, 299599, PO Box 520, Walla Walla WA 99362.

I would like to correspond with a transsexual. Also I would like to receive your newspaper, but I don't have any money. Will you please send it. Hassan SABIR, PO Box 137, Tillery NC 27887.

My name is 'Peaches' and mine aren't from Georgia. I have brown ebony skin, soft to the touch, and am an artist and love reading. I also enjoy being pampered like a baby! Please write this lonely sister. Frank M. JOHNSON, 278603, Box 1100, Avon Park FL 33825.

GM 42 and still no one to talk to. Would like to share experiences with another. Am not going to be here but for another six months. Maybe its time to catch a breath of fresh air. Harold MOORE, 40710-133, Box 4000, Springfield MO 65808.

I found you in the Gayellow Pages. Please place a penpal ad for me. Send no \$, stamps, etc. Just want a friend. I'm an average looking GM, intel, honest, willing to commit myself to making a friendship work. Please write. Mike PARROTT, 13941, Box 14, Boise ID 83707.

My friends call me Candy. I'm gay and would like to write someone. I'm fun-loving and would like to have a close friendship. John BROOKS, 77491-412 Pima A, Box 1500 BCS-1, Phoenix AZ 85029.

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I'm from Philadelphia and could really use a friend to help me through these bad times, someone to talk to. Anthony MENGINIE, 03627-016, Box 7000, PMB 816 Unit F, Texarkana TX 75501.

Bimale looking to write Hispanics or Indian descent for lasting friendship plus what the future may bring. Can receive mail from other prisoners. Gary TEAGUE, Box 137, Tillery NC 27887

I love raising birds, dogs, cats and tropical fish. Anything to do with nature. Have a green thumb and do carpet cleaning, house cleaning, and yard work when on the outside. Would be most interested in corresponding with people with AIDS. I do not have it, but I am not scared that I'd catch it. Also, would be glad to meet people in other institutions (mental hospitals, prisons, shut-ins, etc. I'm only a stamp away. Roger-Dale EMANUEL, PO Box 58, McCain NC 28361.

I'd like to correspond with an effeminate gay male or TV or TS. I'm interested in rock n roll, reading, dancing, playing video games and of course sex. William HILL, 103194, PO Drawer 1072, Arcadia FL 33821.

Again I have been transferred. Seeking correspondence from individuals of all colors, sizes and ages, in or out of cages. My interests are varied, from collecting postcards to keeping my swimmers build in shape even if I don't have a pool to flaunt it in. I'm a Capricorn (serious at work or play). Tom BUTLER, 389367, Rt 2 Box 20, Midway TX 75852.

9", large full balls, no body hair, ferm tite bubble butt, big bright red head on end of golden shaft, love to write. Send SASE for fast reply. Larry SIMS, 194-278, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

I would appreciate it if you would put me on your penpal list. A friend of mine here told me you might be able to help me find someone to write. Joseph BASS, 94020, Camp J Shark 1-L-10, Angola LA 70712.

It's so lonely here in this cell with no one to talk to but the other Girls. That's why I would like to try to find someone outside to talk to. Bye for now. Robin PHILLIPS, 343236, Box 16, Lovelady TX 75851.

To all those who wrote to Isaac Edwards at Vacaville, I have (been) moved. My new address is: Isaac EDWARDS, C-44632 No.7134, CMC-E, PO Box 8101, San Luis Obispo CA 93409.

Thanks, GCN, for your 'impersonal' letter. I received the sample copy and would like to get the paper as often as you can send it. Also would like a penpal ad when there's space. I'm a lifer, looking for a longtime penpal relationship. Charles VIDAL, C-21241, PO Box 8101, San Luis Obispo CA 93409.

I need a friend. My family don't 'need' a gag and I keep to myself here (lonely) and read and work out to keep 'busy'. My big fear is when I get out I'll be going out to nothing and I may get into something silly out of fear of being alone out there, and do something silly to come back to jail. I'm gay but I don't act like a girl or anything like that. I'm a black male but I like white males. Do you think there's something wrong with that? I hope someone feels like writing. Thanks. William JENKINS, 190-430, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

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Calendar

SEPTEMBER 19 TO
OCTOBER 3

24 Thursday ☐ United Fruit Company in "The Big Demonstration and Other Pieces." The Haymarket, 603 Washington St., Boston. 9 pm. \$4. Info: 547-7728.

19 Saturday

Cambridge ☐ Lesbian couples potluck with DOB. 4pm. Info: Beth or Pam, 875-7259.

Cambridge ☐ Yard sale to benefit the woman's school. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. Camb. 10am-2pm.

Cambridge ☐ Amethyst women's dance. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 9-12pm. Alcohol free. \$4 more/less.

20 Sunday

Boston ☐ "Boston's Other Voice" presents Gary Doterman speaking about the October March on Washington. WROR, 98.5FM. 12:30am (Monday morning).

Cambridge ☐ Maggy Kreb's art will be at the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Camb. for those who would like a remembrance of her. 3-5pm. Info: 868-7397.

Boston ☐ Meeting with potential presidential candidate Pat Schroeder. Club Cafe, Columbus St. Contributions are encouraged. 4:30-6:30pm.

Newton ☐ Garden party to benefit Virginia LaLonde. 56 Fairmont Ave. 2-5pm. \$25 donation.

Cambridge ☐ DOB singles brunch at S&S restaurant. 11am. Reservations: Jean, 277-8150.

Boston ☐ Community Church of Boston presents Rosaria Salerno on "the Politics of Compassion." Community Church Center, 565 Boylston St. 11am.

Dorchester ☐ Dorchester Dykes potluck. Info: Karen, 265-7860, Jan, 288-4664.

Brookline ☐ Brookline, Brighton, Allston, Lesbian Potluck dinner. 4:30pm. Info: 566-2558.

21 Monday

Cambridge ☐ Lesbian parents and co-parents rap. DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8pm. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

Newton ☐ Workshop on AIDS Policy and Treatment Dilemmas for Residential Community Corrections Programs." Newton Marriott. 8:30am-4:30pm.

22 Tuesday

Cambridge ☐ Basic woodworking for women. The Wookworker's Store, 2154 Mass. Ave. 7pm. Info: 497-1136.

Cambridge ☐ Lesbians 25 and under. DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8pm. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

Boston ☐ Mass. Les/Gay Bar Ass. presents "Current Immigration Issues affecting the Gay Community: Politics and Practice." Cabot Auditorium, 3 Joy St., 6:30pm. Info: Barbara Macy, 266-0760.



23 Wednesday

Cambridge ☐ Which presidential campaign are you in? Discussion on "Say It Sister." WMBR, 88.1 FM. 7-8pm.

Boston ☐ Am Tikva Rosh Hashanah service. Boston YWCA, Clarendon St. 7:45pm.

24 Thursday

Boston ☐ United Fruit Company in "The Big Demonstration and Other Pieces." The Haymarket, 603 Washington St. 9pm. \$4 donation to benefit the People of Color Task Force for the March on Washington. Info: Abe Rybeck, 547-7728.

Somerville ☐ "The Three Women," The Performance Place, 277 Broadway, 8pm, \$10, \$6.50 students, through Oct. 24. Info: 623-5510.

Boston ☐ GCN's production night. All welcome. Proofreading: before 8PM. Paste-up: after 7PM. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington & Back Bay T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

Boston ☐ Choices, a play by GERALYN HORTON about reproductive rights, multi-cultural cast, presented by Playwrights Platform, Arlington St. Church, 8pm (through Sept. 26), \$3. Info: 427-7450.

25 Friday

Cambridge ☐ "Sara Laughs," the new band from Amelia and Jennifer. Modern Times Cafe, 8:45pm. \$4. Info: 354-8371.

Boston ☐ GCN mailing. Come help stuff the paper and meet new friends. 5pm to 10pm. Near Arlington and Back Bay T-stops. Info: GCN, 426-4469. Boston ☐ Choices (see 9/24).

Boston ☐ Latin American Cultural Conclave begins, Villa Victoria Cultural Center. 6:30pm. Sponsored by Alianza Hispana, CASA, and META. Continues through Sept. 27. Info: 427-7175, ex. 39.

26 Saturday

New Bedford ☐ "Steppin' Out" all-day conference for gays, lesbians and their friends. Unitarian Church, Corner of County and Union Sts. 8:30am-5:30pm. \$5-20 (more or less) includes catered lunch. Info. and registration: Lisa, 999-3255 or Patrick 995-7614.

Dorchester ☐ Latin American Cultural Conclave Concierto with Atabal IV, Roy Brown, Fortaleza, Merian Soto. Strand Theater, 543 Columbia Rd. 7:30pm. \$15 or \$7.

Boston ☐ Gay and Lesbian Speakers Bureau training day. Location TBA. 10am-4:30pm. Info: 354-0133.

New Bedford ☐ "Steppin' Out" conference for Gays, Lesbians and Our Friends. Unitarian Church, 8:30am-5:30pm. Info: 629-2868.

Boston ☐ Shane Snowden, Karen Kahn and Catherine Corliss of Sojourner are interviewed on "Something About the Women." WMFO, 91.5FM. 10am-2pm.

Boston ☐ Girth and Mirth of New England monthly social. Hill House, Joy St. 8pm. Call Lenny: 389-5635.

Cambridge ☐ DOB fall dance at Old Camb. Baptist Church with music by "Claire." 8-12pm. \$5/member, \$6 other women. Info: Jean: 277-8150.

Boston ☐ Choices, 2 and 8pm (see 9/24).

Dorchester ☐ GALA's annual yard sale and bottle drive, 31 Lyndhurst St. 10am-4pm. Info: Barbara, 282-2962.

Boston ☐ Boston Area Women's Self-Defense Collective 4-week course in self-defense. Through Oct. 14. \$40 with a limited number of scholarships available. Info: 574-9433.

Boston ☐ "Computerizing Your Operations." Boston Women's Fund Fall 1987 Workshop Series, 10am-7pm. \$7 sliding scale fee. To register, call 542-5955.

27 Sunday

Boston ☐ "Visage: A Celebration of our Images." Lesbian and gay fashion show to benefit the national March on Washington. Metro, 15 Lansdowne St. Cocktail and buffet, 8-10pm, show at 10pm. \$10 advance, \$12 at the door. Tickets available at Metro and at GCN.

Boston ☐ Rev. Rosemary Denman speaks at the Community Church of Boston. Community Church Center, 565 Boylston St. 11am

Dorchester ☐ GALA yard sale (see 9/26).

Boston ☐ "The Return of the Goddess and the Rebirth of the Sacred." Pagan celebration of the Autumn Equinox with Boston Unitarian Universalist Gays and Lesbians. Arlington St. Church. 6pm. Info: 742-2100.

Boston ☐ Boston NOW 10K pledge walk for lesbian/gay rights. Boston Common. Registration: 11am, rally noon. Info: 782-1056.

Boston ☐ Latin American cultural conclave poetry reading with Claribel Alegria, Marjorie Agosin and others. Mass. College of Art. 6pm. Free. (See 9/25, 26.)

Charlestown ☐ Healing Servie for AIDS. St. John's Episcopal Church, 27 Devens St. 7:30pm. Info: 242-1272.

Cambridge ☐ DOB softball & potluck supper. Magazine Field, Memorial Dr., 4-6pm. Info: Steph, 357-5774.

Boston ☐ Rock against Sexism disc party to benefit the March on Washington and National Bisexual Contingent. 1270 Boylston St. 6-10pm. \$2. Info: 734-1672.

Cambridge ☐ E. J. Graff reads her poems, New Words, 186 Hampshire St. 7:30pm, donations welcome.

29 Tuesday

Cambridge ☐ Open discussion for lesbians. DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8pm. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

October 2 Friday

Cambridge ☐ Black Rose lecture series: "Science, Women and the New Reproductive Technology," with feminist biologist Rita Arditti. MIT rm. 9-150, 105 Mass. Ave. 8pm. Info: Peter or Donna, 524-0781.

3 Saturday

Brookline ☐ Break the Yom Kippur fast with Am Tikva. Dairy/veggie potluck at the Workmen's Circle, 1762 Beacon St. 8:30pm. Info: 782-8894.

Watertown ☐ Women's tennis, courts behind Arsenal St. Mall, 9am. Info: Laura, 628-1038.

Boston ☐ Discussion about the Oct. 11 March on Washington on "Something About the Women." WMFO, 91.5 FM. 10am-2pm.

CALENDAR COMPILED BY
BARNABY FISHER

By Ann Fry

Adrienne Rich, beloved poet of the lesbian and women's community, read a choice smattering of her poetry to a rapt audience of over 1,200 on Friday, Sept. 11. Her rare Boston appearance in Harvard's Sander's Theater benefited *Sojourner*, Boston's monthly women's newspaper, and the Boston Women's Fund.

Rich's career as a poet/essayist has spanned almost 40 years, surviving a 20-year marriage. She has published 11 volumes of poetry, including *Diving Into the Wreck* (1973), *The Dream of a Common Language* (1978), and most recently *Your Native Land* (1986). She has also published a two collections of critical essays, *On Lies, Secrets and Silence* (1979) and *Blood, Bread and Poetry* (1986) and a personal/political/historical meditation on motherhood, *Of Women Born* (1976). In addition to authoring numerous other pamphlets of social criticism, Rich for a number of years co-edited the lesbian feminist journal, *Sinister Wisdom*.

The tone of the reading can perhaps best be summed up by a stanza from one of Rich's new poems, "Dreamwood," in which she asserts, "Poetry isn't revolution, but a way of knowing why it must come." Each poem she read is a complex union of vivid images and sharp insights enhanced by a sprinkling of dry humor. She encourages us to think analytically and politically, and to realize our desires as women and as lesbians and, if necessary, to change ourselves. In the poem "Waves," Rich's first offering of the evening, she urges us to "think of those lives we tried to live in our globed hel-

Rich muses

*"Poetry isn't revolution,
but a way of knowing why it must come."*



mets, self-imposed...gliding safe from turbulence, and how, miraculously, we failed."

Revolution or change was a theme Rich carried through in many of the evening's readings. Much of her poetry consists of reflections of a woman who has delved deeply into her consciousness in order to unearth and discard the inanities of societal conformity. Reading the poem "For Ethel Rosenberg," she talked of the effects of the Rosenberg trial on her self-perceptions when the trial took place both "the week [she] gave herself in marriage" and now as a lesbian feminist. She asks questions of Rosenberg, executed June 19, 1953, such as "Would you have marched to take back the night," wondering if Rosenberg would have found the strength to change as Rich did.

Rich also touched on subjects such as alienation in family relationships, the death of a close friend from AIDS, and creativity. Her portrayals of strong women (notably in the new poem "Letters in the Family") were both painful and uplifting, exposing the oppression women have been subjected to for decades and celebrating the ways in which they have strived to overcome it. The audience of mostly women could not help but feel enlivened and affirmed by Rich's work, and at the very least, were left with a lot to think about.

Illinois

Continued from page 7

observers charged that the "gay lobby" was at work again, victimizing anyone not "pro-gay" enough.

Early this month, Edwards offered his resignation. City officials denied that Edwards quit at Mayor Harold Washington's request, and according to *Windy City Times*, a critical report on Edwards prepared by the Mayor's Committee On Gay and Lesbian Issues (COGLI) several weeks ago has yet to be presented to Washington.

It is impossible, however, that Washington was unaware of the gay and lesbian community's dissatisfaction with Edwards, and unlikely that both Reddi's and Edwards' removals were unconnected with their poor performance on the AIDS issues. It appears that the same pressure which makes it difficult for Gov. Thompson to openly criticize repressive AIDS legislation is weighing on Washington as well. Easily the most pro-gay mayor in Chicago's history (he has spoken at every gay pride rally since his election), even Washington is reluctant to appear too supportive of the gay community on the

AIDS issue.

Fortunately, Chicago's gay and lesbian community continues to develop its political consciousness and activism despite the disappointing developments around AIDS. Local activists were galvanized last year first by the hard fought attempt to pass a city-wide gay rights ordinance, then by Dr. Ron Soble's narrowly-defeated bid for alderman in the heavily gay/lesbian 44th Ward. New groups, like the Lesbian and Gay Progressive Democratic Organization, formed out of the Soble for Alderman campaign, and the Gay and Lesbian Town Meeting, a loose

coalition largely focused on the gay rights ordinance, have emerged in the past year. The rise in activism has been matched by increased visibility in the city at large and the media, which until recently routinely ignored the gay/lesbian community. Unfortunately, some of this increase in recognition and clout has produced negative backlash, like the absurd claims about a fictitious "gay lobby" coercing medical authorities. □

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